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A BRIEF

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ACCOUNT
OF THE
LIFE and CHARACTER
OF
SCANDERBEG.

(Price Six-Pence.)

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OF THE
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OF
GEORGE CASTRIOT,
King of *Epirus* and *Albania*,
Commonly called,
SCANDERBEG.

Inscribed to the
SPECTATORS of the *Christian HERO.*

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. ROBERTS, at the *Oxford-Arms*,
in *Warwick-lane.* 1735.

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LONDON:
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A Brief

ACCOUNT, &c.



TH O' the Life of Scanderbeg is certainly as full of the most surprising Events, his Actions as wonderful, and his Character as perfect and exalted, as any of the ancient Heroes of Greece or Rome ; yet for Want of a *Homer* or a *Virgil*, a *Plutarch* or a *Livy*, to celebrate his Praise, or write his Life in a Manner worthy of him, there are great Numbers, who are conversant with the *Classic* as well as other Writers, who know very little of *Scanderbeg*, besides his Name : So necessary to the Fame even of the greatest Men, is an elegant Poet, or faithful Historian.

The Tragedy of the *Christian Hero*, now in Rehearsal at the Theatre Royal in *Drury Lane*, is, as we have been credibly informed, founded on that wonderful and important Circumstance in the Life of *Scanderbeg*, his raising the Siege of *Croia*, after it had been invested near six Months by the numerous Troops of the *Turkish Sultan*, *Amurath* the Second; who died, after infinite Vexation and Disappointment, of Grief and Rage, under the Walls of the City. We judge it therefore necessary at this Time to give the Publick some Account, collected from the most Authentick Authors, of the Life and Character of this excellent Prince; that those, who are as yet unacquainted with the Story, may by reading this, besides the Instruction and Entertainment they may find in it, be the better able to judge of the Play, when it shall appear upon the Stage.

It may give Light to the following History to observe that *Albania*, the Country of *Scanderbeg*, is in that Part of *Greece* which lies between *Dalmatia* and *Achaia*, on the *Adriatick* and *Ionian* Seas; and includes in it some Parts of the ancient Kingdoms of *Epirus* and *Macedon*, and of the Provinces of *Liburnia*, *Dalmatia* and *Illyria*, and is supposed to have taken it's present Name, which is but modern, from a Colony of *Albanians*, a People

ple of *Asia* ; who coming into *Europe* and settling there, in time communicated their Name to the Country.

After the Conquest of *Greece* by *Paulus Æmilius* and others, *Albania*, tho' not then known by that Name, was incorporated with some adjacent Countries and so became Part of a *Roman* Province under the Government of the *Prefectus Pretorio* of *Illyrium*. At the Division of the Empire it was allotted to the Emperors of *Constantinople*, and so remain'd 'till the Decline of their Power; when the Government of it fell to the Family of the *Castriots*, who were generally called Kings of *Epirus*, as a Country of the greatest Antiquity and Fame, but *Albania* was certainly the most powerful and wealthy Part of their Dominions, and *Croia*, it's Metropolis, the Seat of their Residence.

John Castriot and *Voisava*, a Prince and Princess celebrated by the Historians of that Age for their uncommon Perfections of Mind and Body, were the Parents of our Hero. They had besides him three Sons and five Daughters. The untimely Fate of the three elder Sons, whose Names were *Reposius*, *Staniffa* and *Constantine*, we shall mention hereafter : of the Daughters we find little more recorded than that they were married to Christian Princes and Noblemen suitable to their

their Rank. *George Castriot*, or *Scanderbeg*, which last Name was given him by the *Turks* and is the same by which *Alexander* the Great is known amongst them, the fourth and youngest Son, was born at *Croia* in the Year 1405.

The Overthrow of *Bajazet* by *Tamerlane* seem'd for a time to have put an End to the spreading Empire of the *Ottomans*; but after the Death of that victorious Prince, *Mahomet* the Second, the Son of *Bajazet*, recover'd his Father's Kingdom, which his Son *Amurath* the Second vastly increased by his Conquests both in *Asia* and *Europe*. He was a Prince of Courage enough and set no Bounds to his Ambition; but upon the least Disappointment exceeding fretfull and impatient, especially in his old Age; zealous in his Religion, a profound Politician, a Commander of great Experience and for the most part successfull in his Enterprizes; the most beloved by his Subjects and the most faithfull Observer of his Word, of any of the *Turkish* Sultans either before or after him; not that he was always a Slave to it (his Perfidiousness to the *Castriots* is a notorious Instance of the contrary.) No, that was not to be expected from an Arbitrary Prince and an Orthodox *Mahometan*, as *Amurath* was. The Bigot and the Tyrant, how good soever the natural Disposition may be, will sometimes get the better of the Man.

Amurath

Amurath, in the Beginning of his Reign, met with some Opposition first from an Imposter who pretended to be *Mustapha*, the Son of his Grand Father *Bajazet*; and soon after from his own younger Brother of the same Name. But his Courage and good Fortune having put an End to these domestick Troubles by the Death of both the *Mustaphas*, he quickly convinced the neighbouring Princes, who had assisted his Competitors, that he was not to be offended with Impunity. The *Mahometan* King of *Caramania* in *Asia* paid his Life for his Temerity; so did the Christian Prince of *Smyrna*; which City with it's District, *Amurath* conquer'd and added to his other Acquisitions in *Asia*. *Greece* next felt the Effects of his Resentment, or rather of his Ambition, which incessantly urged him to seize all Advantages to enlarge his Dominions. His numerous Troops with almost incredible Celerity subdued *Achaia*, *Thessaly* and *Macedon*. *Athens*, perhaps unprepared for Resistance, tamely submitted to the intolerable Yoke of *Turkish* Bondage; and *Thessalonica*, after a brave Defence, being taken by Storm, suffer'd all the Misery that an enraged and barbarous Enemy, licensed to plunder, massacre and enslave, cou'd possibly inflict. *John Castriot*, King of *Epirus* and *Albania*, who saw with Grief the Supineness of the *Greek* Emperor, resolved to guard against Surprise.

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He knew *Amurath* was preparing to attack him, and prudently chose rather to meet him on the Borders of *Macedon*, than wait for him in *Albania*. This wise Conduct not only preserved his Dominions from being the Seat of War, but enabled him to annoy the Enemy with little Loss on his Part; the Mountains, which part *Macedon* from *Epirus*, being a very happy Situation for that Purpose. *Amurath*, soon weary of a War that was likely to prove so tedious and expensive, and which in the mean while put a Stop to the Career of his Victories, was easily induced to hearken to Terms of Accomodation, and yielded at length to leave *Castriot* the free and quiet Possession of his Crown and Kingdom, and to make a perpetual Peace with him; Conditions not to be refused by a Prince comparatively so weak as the King of *Epirus*, and which the haughty *Sultan* wou'd certainly have denied to the Emperor of *Constantinople*. There was but one Difficulty to overcome and that to a Prince less generous than *Castriot* had been insuperable. *Amurath* demanded his four Sons as Hostages. 'Tis easy to judge how bitter this Proposal must be to an affectionate Father: but considering what he ow'd to his brave and loyal Subjects, whom the least Misfortune wou'd have exposed to inevitable Ruin, and trusting to the *Sultan's* Honour who tho' known to be a vindictive and implacable Enemy, was nevertheless esteemed

steem'd an inviolable Regarder of his Word, the afflicted King complied. *Amurath* received the Royal Pledges, and ending the War carried them with him to *Adrianople*. We don't find that *Castriot* had any Difference with the *Sultan* afterwards, and must therefore conclude that these Princes, during the Life of their Father, were used with all the Respect and Honour due to their Rank and Characters.

George Castriot, tho' not above eight Years of Age when he came to *Adrianople*, was quickly distinguish'd and admir'd by the *Sultan* and the whole Seraglio. His extraordinary Beauty, Majestick Deportment, Wit, Vivacity and Greatness of Mind charmed all who had the Opportunity of being acquainted with him. *Amurath* pleas'd with his promising Genius, appointed him a Retinue, a Table and Tutors to instruct him, in the same manner as his own Sons, in the *Mahometan* Religion, and all the Sciences as far as they were known in the *Turkish* Court. And being determin'd, as it afterwards appeared, never to part with him, he forced him to submit to Circumcision, and gave him the Magnificent Name of *Scanderbeg*, or *Alexander*. Hoping no Doubt, considering his tender Age, by these Means to extinguish in him the very Memory of the Christian Religion, his Father's House and native Country. *Scander-*
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beg's Improvement, especially in Martial Exercises, so pleased the *Sultan*, that having Wars in *Natolia* he took him with him, where he gave such Proofs of his Wisdom and Courage, that, at nineteen Years of Age, *Amurath* gave him the Command of five thousand Horse and soon after the Title of *Bassa*. Returning himself into *Europe*, he left him to Command all his Troops in the lesser *Asia*; which he did with so much Success, that from thence *Amurath* used frequently to call him, his right Eye, his right Hand, his Defence and the Augmentor of his Dominions.

Scanderbeg, in his Return to *Adrianople*, killed a Gigantick *Tartar*, esteem'd invincible, in single Combat. And some Time after, being with *Amurath* at *Bursia* in *Bithynia*, he encounter'd two *Persian* Champions, famous for their Strength and Courage, and who had publickly challenged any two Men in the *Sultan's* Army, with the same Success.

However pleasing to a youthfull, courageous and high Spirited Prince Honour and Fame may be, yet *Scanderbeg's* Love of Truth was superior to these Temptations. He was constantly attended, when in the Field, by some Christian Soldiers, Natives of *Albania*, by whom he was secretly instructed and confirmed in the Christian Religion. The maintaining of which and the civil Liberty of his Country

Country was his governing Principle, during the whole Course of his laborious and important Life. 'Tis no Wonder therefore, that being sent with a numerous Army against the *Hungarians* he avoided all Occasions of giving them Battle. He behaved however with such Prudence and Circumspection, that he lost no Reputation, nor drew upon himself the least Suspicion from the subtle and mistrustful Sultan.

Soon after *Scanderbeg's* Return from the *Hungarian War*, *Amurath* receiv'd an Account of the Death of *John Castriot*, the Father of our Hero; upon which he dispatched *Sebalia*, a Bassa of great Courage and Experience, with a powerful Army into *Albania*; who immediately took Possession of whole Kingdom, telling the People who were surprized and without a Leader, that he came as a Friend by the Sultan's Order only to prevent Innovations, and secure the Country for the Interest of the Hostage Prince, on whom the Succession was devolved; and to whom, on his Arrival which they were shortly to expect, it should be safely deliver'd. In the mean time *Amurath*, who intended nothing less, caused the three elder Brothers of *Scanderbeg* to be secretly destroy'd by Poison, and reduced this Christian Kingdom to the miserable Condition of a *Turkish* Province. The Liberty which this brave People had so long enjoy'd under the

Paternal Care of their native Princes, seem'd now to be lost for ever : their Churches were turned to Mosques, their Laws subverted, and their Estates and Persons become the Property of a barbarous and foreign Tyrant. 'Tis much easier to imagine than describe the Grief and Indignation of *Scanderbeg* on this Occasion ; which, great as they were, he was so much Master of himself as to conceal. He knew *Amurath* too well to express the least Resentment whilst he was in his Power, and wisely reserv'd himself till Time should give him an Opportunity to free his Country and revenge the Injuries, done to himself and his Family. *Amurath*, who really loved him and was therefore unwilling to take his Life, vainly imagined by heaping new Honours on him at present, and promising him more and greater Proofs of his Favour hereafter, to extinguish the Memory of his Wrongs, or make him think that those done to his Brothers and his Country were none to him. He was not however absolutely free from Suspicion. He would sometimes talk to *Scanderbeg* of restoring him to his Father's Kingdom to discover, whether he entertain'd any such Hopes ; but all to little Purpose : For *Scanderbeg*, who knew the Success of his Designs depended on their Secrecy, was not to be over-reach'd.

The War between the *Turks* and *Hugarians* being renew'd with greater Violence than
ever

ever, the Sultan notwithstanding his fair Speeches and seeming Confidence in *Scanderbeg*, did not think it proper to trust him with the sole Command of his Army, but set over him the Bassa of *Romania*. The Christian Army, under the Command of the great *Hanniades*, meeting the Sultan's near the *Moravia*, a River so called, a fierce and bloody Battle ensued; wherein Victory declared for the *Christians*. The *Turks* lost 40000 Men. In this Battle *Scanderbeg*, with his Country-men the *Epirots*, to whom he had before communicated his Design (contrary to their Custom) were the first who fled, which so discouraged the *Turkish* Army, that the Rout soon became universal. In this Confusion *Scanderbeg* and his Followers seized the *Turkish* Secretary, and having bound and convey'd him to a private Place, compell'd him to write an Order, as from the Sultan, to the Governor of *Croia*, to deliver to *Scanderbeg*, now appointed Governor, the Charge of that City. Their own Preservation compell'd them to dispatch the Secretary. After which they set forward with all possible Expedition, towards *Albania*. As soon as they arrived there, *Scanderbeg* sent his Kinsman *Amasie*, a young Prince of an enterprising Genius (tho' afterwards a Traytor and an Apostate) with his counterfeit Credentials to the Governor of *Croia*; who without Suspicion quitted the City, of which *Scanderbeg* immediately took Possession. But
tho'

tho' the *Turkish* Governor was gone, the Garrison remain'd. *Scanderbeg* therefore gave secret Orders to those who had followed him from *Hungary*, to enter the City by small Numbers at a Time, to prevent Suspicion; who in the Dead of the Night, being join'd by the Citizens, fell with such Fury on the *Turks*, that in a few Hours the whole Garrison was cut off, except some few who submitted to the Government of *Scanderbeg* and embraced the Christian Faith.

Croia being thus happily recover'd, Messengers were dispatch'd to all Parts of the Kingdom to proclaim the King, and excite the People to take Arms for the Recovery of their Liberty: but Fame had already fill'd all Parts of the Country with *Scanderbeg's* Return and the Reduction of *Croia*. The *Epirots*, who had long wish'd for such a Day, were every where in Arms assert- in their Right and taking Vengeance of their Oppressors; and that with such Fury, that in a few Days there was not a *Turk* to be found in *Epirus*, except in a few Garrisons, all which were soon subdued. *Amurath* heard of *Scanderbeg's* Revolt and Success with the utmost Rage and Indignation, but being embarrassed with the *Hungarian* War, affected to make light of it, and for the present spoke of it, as a matter of little Consequence.

Scanderbeg

Scanderbeg being now at Leisure, in an Assembly convened for that Purpose, restored the Civil Government of his Kingdom to it's former Order; and soon settling it's Tranquility began to think it Time to annoy his Enemies; and Entering *Macedon*, where he met with little Opposition, he made the Sultan's Subjects pay for the Depredations his own had suffer'd, during their Master's Usurpation of his Country. The News of this so enraged *Amurath*, that tho' the *Hungarian* War was not yet ended, he order'd *Alibeg*, a Bassa, of whose Conduct and Courage he had a high Opinion, to invade *Epirus* with 40000 Men, to bring *Scanderbeg* to him either alive or dead, and to reduce the whole Country once more to his Subjection. The *Epirots*, who justly feared falling a second time into the Hands of the *Turk*, and terribly alarmed at the Preparations, flock'd from all Parts of the Country to their King at *Croia*; who entertain'd them with his usual Cheerfulness and Affability, but without the least Sign of Fear. The *Epirots*, who were afterwards better acquainted with their Prince's Conduct and Intrepidity, were surprized to see him behave in a Manner so very improper, as they thought, considering the present Danger that threatned himself and People. But how was their Wonder increased, when they saw that out of the Multitude that attended and offer'd to serve him,

him, Strangers as well as *Epirots*, he took only 8000 Horse, and 7000 Foot, (when he might have had twice that Number) and dismissed the rest. With this small Army he marched to the lower *Dibra*, on the Borders of *Macedon*, about 80 Miles from *Croia*. Where, in a narrow Pass, defended by Mountains on one hand and a Wood on the other, he encamped and waited for the *Turkish* Army; upon its Approach, he order'd *Amasie*, with 3000 Men, to conceal himself in the Wood 'till the Armies should be engaged, and then, as Opportunity offer'd, to attack the *Turks* in the Rear. The *Bassa* did *Scanderbeg* the Justice to admire the Order of his little Army, but confiding in his Numbers, came on with great Resolution and Assurance of Success. *Scanderbeg*, at the Head of his Troops, with invincible Courage, sustain'd the Attack; and beginning the Battle himself with his own Hand made terrible Slaughter amongst the *Turks*. His Soldiers following the Example of their Leader, the *Turks* were soon put to a Stand. *Alibeg* seeing this, retreated in Hopes that *Scanderbeg* would have follow'd him into the open Country, where he might by his numerous Army easily have compassed and destroy'd him: but being disappointed by the Prudence of *Scanderbeg* the *Turks* returned with greater Fury than before: Upon which *Scanderbeg* retreated in his Turn, which drew his Enemy into the

Streight

Streight as he designed ; where being attacked by *Amasie* behind, and *Scanderbeg* before, their great Numbers were not only useless, but hasten'd their Destruction by trampling one another to Death. Upon this every one began to shift for himself. The Bassa and some few others escaped with much Difficulty and left behind him 22000 slain, 2000 Prisoners, 24 Standards with all his Ammunition, Tents and Baggage. This glorious Victory cost the *Christians* but 300 Men. *Scanderbeg* having mounted his 7000 Foot, with Horses taken from the *Turks*, enter'd the Sultan's Dominions : which having plunder'd and with the Spoils greatly enrich'd his Followers, without reserving any thing for himself, he return'd triumphantly to *Croia*.

The Loss of this Battle, with that before mention'd, gain'd by *Hunniades*, so reduc'd the Power of *Amurath*, that he was forced, tho' with great Reluctance, to sue to the *Hungarians* for a Peace; which they upon Terms, that seem'd indeed advantageous enough for themselves, too easily granted : And thereby lost an Opportunity which has never since returned nor perhaps ever will : For had they assisted *Scanderbeg* with all their Forces, instead of making Peace with *Amurath*, as in Justice and Policy they ought to have done, the *Turks* might in all Probability have been utterly
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driven out of *Europe* and all the Miseries they have since brought upon the Christian World been prevented. A Peace was however made and solemnly sworn to by *Uladislaus* King of *Hungary* on the Evangelists, and by *Amurath* on the *Koran*. The old Sultan, ever melancholy and impatient, grew weary of the World upon these Disappointments, and after revenging himself on the King of *Caramania*, who had taken the Advantage of his Troubles to endeavour throw off his Yoke, he resigned his Crown to his Son *Mahomet*, and retired to *Magnesia*. *Julian*, Cardinal *St. Angelo*, the Pope's Legate at the Court of *Hungaria*, being informed that the *Turkish* Affairs were in the utmost Confusion under the Government of the young Sultan, persuaded *Uladislaus* to break the Peace and absolved him from the Oath given to *Amurath*; or, in other Words, gave him a Dispensation to be perjured. *Scanderbeg's* Assistance was asked; who being under no Obligation to the contrary, and having resolved to omit no Opportunity of distressing the common Enemy, raised an Army of 30000 Men, a greater than he ever brought into the Field, either before or after; designing to march them through *Servia* in order to join the *Hungarians*: but Providence, that purposed, as it afterwards appeared, to vindicate its Justice and make that faithless King an Instance of its Severity, prevented *Scanderbeg* from

from coming to his Assistance. The Despot of *Servia*, whose Daughter *Amurath* had married, denying him a Passage, a Dispute arose; in which the Despot was a Sufferer, yet so much Time was lost, that the Battle of *Verna* was fought whilst *Scanderbeg* was on the Borders of *Servia*. These Dangers roused *Amurath* from his Stupidity. He quitted *Magnesia*, and re-assumed the Government. And passing over from *Asia* to *Europe* with a numerous Army joined his Bassa, and marched to seek the *Hungarians*. The two Armies met near the City of *Verna* in *Bulgaria*, where a terrible Battle ensued. In which *Amurath* proved victorious; *Uladislaus*, the King of *Hungaria* and *Poland*, lost his Life, with two Thirds of his Army and the Flower of his Nobility. *Hunniades*, the valiant Prince of *Transylvania*, sometime after King of *Hungaria*, very hardly escaped; and the Pope's Legate, the impious Promoter of this perfidious War, after being striped and wounded, and enduring the utmost Indignities and Reproaches from some of those whom he had seduced, justly perish'd in the Storm, that he had raised.

THE following Circumstance from *Knowlles's* Account of this Battle is too remarkable to be omitted. *Amurath* seeing the great Slaughter of his Men, who were forced to retreat; and even ready to fly,

took the Writing out of his Bosom, wherein the late League was comprised, and holding it in his Hand with his Eyes raised towards Heaven, said ; “ Behold, thou crucified
 “ Christ, this is the League thy Followers
 “ have, in thy Name, made with me ;
 “ which without Cause they have violated :
 “ Now if thou art God, as they say thou
 “ art, revenge the Wrong done to thy
 “ Name and me ; shew thy Power upon
 “ this perjured People, who in their Deeds
 “ deny thee. *Amurath*, who was observed
 after this Battle to be as gloomy and discontented as ever, being asked the Cause, answered, that he desired no more Victories at such a Price. And indeed it cost him the greatest Part of his numerous Army.

Having given Orders for the Government of his Empire, he once more retired to *Magnesia* ; but his restless Mind and Thirst of Revenge on *Scanderbeg*, soon made him weary of this unactive Life ; he quitted his Devotions, and returning to *Adrianople*, took the Management of the Publick Affairs again into his own Hands, to the no small Mortification of his ambitious Son to whom he had a second time committed them. Intent on the Destruction of *Scanderbeg*, and hoping to ruin him by a fallacious Peace, he sent *Ayradin*, a Man of great Subtlety, as his Ambassador, to *Croia*. He carried with him Letters from *Amurath* full of cruel Reproaches,

proaches, Threats, Flattery, Promises and artful Insinuations; calculated to work upon all the Passions, especially Ambition and Terror; promising him, on Condition he would return to his Obedience and embrace the *Mahometan* Faith, his eternal Friendship, with a vast Accession of Wealth and Power; but threatening him and his, if he refused, with utter Ruin and Extirpation. *Scanderbeg*, who detested and despised these Proposals and him that sent them, dismissed the Ambassador with an Answer that became his own Courage and the Justice of his Cause. The Sultan reading it was so provoked, that stroaking his white Beard according to his Custom when he was angry, he cried out; "Thou desirest, vain Wretch, an honourable Death; Well, take thy Wish; I will attend the Funeral of my Foster-Son: Yes, tho' unbidden, I will honour in Person the Funeral Pomp of the great King of *Epirus*."

To keep *Scanderbeg* imploy'd and waste his Strength by Degrees, *Amurath* sent *Ferises* with 9000 Horse to the Borders of *Epirus*, while he himself prepared to follow him with his whole Force. *Scanderbeg* had dismissed his Army raised for the *Hungarian* War, and had with him only his usual Complement, which was 1500 Foot and 2000 Horse. *Ferises* attacked him with a great deal of Vigour; and hoping to gain immortal Honour and end the War at once by

by the Death of *Scanderbeg*, with more Courage than Prudence, fought for him (where he was always to be found) in the Front of the Battle: *Scanderbeg* met and dispatched him by a single Blow with his Sabre in the Sight of both Armies; which so disheartened the *Turks* that they took to their Heels, but were so closely pursued by the *Epirots*, that few of them escaped to carry the News to *Adrianople*.

The Sultan, who imputed the Overthrow of *Ferises* to his own Rashness, sent *Mustapha*, a Commander not less valiant but more prudent, with a fresh Supply of Troops to the Borders of *Epirus*; but charged him not to hazard a Battle on any Occasion whatever, but only to harraß the Frontiers and constantly retire upon the Approach of *Scanderbeg*; telling him he should take it for good Service if he should hear, that “the
“ Trees and Fruits of *Epirus* had felt the
“ Effects of his Anger. *Mustapha* so well observed his Orders, that having strong intrenched his Army on the Moutains, that part *Macedon* from *Epirus*, he from thence by small Parties sent forth from time to time grievously infested the Country; burning the Villages, destroying the Vineyards and doing all the Mischief in their Power. *Scanderbeg* had too much Love for his suffering People as well as Regard for his own Honour to hear of these Devastations with Patience.
He

did every thing that Policy could suggest to draw them from their Intrenchment; but finding all Attempts of this Kind ineffectual he resolved, if possible to drive them out by Force; which he thus effected. *Scanderbeg* observing a small Party of *Turks* foraging, according to their daily Practice, at some Distance from their Camp, surprized them with 4000 Horse and 1000 Foot, and drove them to their Trenches; which his Troops entering with the Fugitives the whole Camp was instantly filled with Terror and Confusion. The *Christians*, provoked with the Ruin of their Country, made dreadful Havock of the *Turks*. *Mustapha*, seeing all was lost, escaped by the Port nearest to *Macedon*. Five thousand *Turks* fell on the Spot and the rest fled; many of whom being afterwards found in *Epirus* were either killed or made Prisoners.

Notwithstanding these Triumphs *Scanderbeg* had, like other great and Good Men, his Portion of Affliction. *Amasie*, his Kinsman, seduced by the Flattery of *Amurath* and his own Ambition, deserted his Cause and fled to *Adrianople*; where he embraced *Mahometanism* and was ever after a concealed Traytor or an open Enemy to *Scanderbeg*. *Lech Zachary*, who possessed a small Territory in *Albania* under the Protection of *Scanderbeg*, who was by Covenant to succeed him if he died without Issue, being basely murdered

thered by his unnatural Kinsman, *Lactucagne*; the *Venetians*, upon some frivolous Pretences, claimed Part of this Inheritance, and seizing upon the City *Dayna*, which lay convenient for them, fortified it against *Scanderbeg*. Upon this a War ensued in which *Scanderbeg* had greatly the Advantage. He subdued almost the whole Province of *Scularia* and defeated an Army of the *Venetians* near the River *Dryne*, took many Prisoners, and amongst them some of great Eminence, but shed as little Blood as possible. As this was a War into which he was forced against his Inclination, and in which Conquest itself gave him no Pleasure, he was ever ready to end it upon honourable Terms; which he did as soon as they were offered.

During the War *Mustapha* obtaining another Army of the *Sultan*, return'd into *Epirus* and met with worse Success than before. He now lost 10000 Men with his own Liberty and that of twelve principal Officers, whose Ransom cost *Amurath* 25000 Duckets and many valuable Presents; which with the Plunder of the *Turkish* Camp and the Contributions raised in *Macedon*, greatly enriched the *Epirots*. This Victory cost *Scanderbeg* only three Hundred Men.

Amurath having again defeated *Hunniades*, in a Battle which lasted three Days, on the

the Plains of *Cossova*, resolved to go against *Scanderbeg* in Person, and execute the Vengeance with which he had so long threatened him; for this Purpose he assembled an Army at *Adrianople* of 160000 Men. *Scanderbeg*, who had early Information of his Proceedings, and foresaw where the Storm would fall, prepared for his Defence. He ordered those who lived in the open Country in Farms and Villages to quit their Habitations and take with them every thing that was moveable; the rest he entirely destroyed; that the Enemy, on their Arrival, might have nothing to subsist on. The Women and Children, and such as Infirmities and old Age had rendered uselefs, were sent into fortified Places in the remotest Parts of the Kingdom; or into the *Venetian* or other neighbouring Christian Dominions, where they remained till the Danger was over. This however necessary, was very grievous to the *Epirots*. It was a moving Scene to see aged Parents taking Leave of their Children and affectionate Wives of their Husbands, almost despairing ever to see them again: so terrible were their Apprehensions of the Sultan's Power. They had now long enjoyed, under their indulgent and fortunate King, Liberty, Safety and Prosperity: he indeed had perpetual Wars, but Wars more advantageous to his People than Peace itself. All these Blessings they thought must now be lost: Some perhaps feared for themselves,

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but all trembled for their King and Country. *Scanderbeg* alone was *himself* on this Occasion: he laboured for their Preservation without partaking of their Fears; he ordered the Fortifications of *Croia* to be repaired and improved; and sending thence all who might be useless or burdensome, he supplied it with Provisions and Ammunition for twelve Months, added 1300 Men to the Inhabitants for its Defence, and appointed *Uranacoties*, Governor, a Man every way equal to so important a Trust. Of all that were able to bear Arms he chose only 10,000 Men, with which small Army he remained in the open Country and sent the rest to defend the Cities, and other defenseable Places in his Dominions. *Amurath*, who travelled slow by Reason of his great Age, sent 40000 light Horse before him to besiege *Setigra de* on the Borders of *Macedon*, the second City for Strength in *Epirus*; whilst he himself followed with the Bulk of his Army. The *Turks* were no sooner encamped before that City, but *Scanderbeg* cut off 2000 of them, to give them a Taste of what Entertainment they were to expect in *Epirus*. A few Days after *Amurath* arrived and besieged the City with his whole Force, but with no Appearance of Success, being repulsed with great Loss in all his Attacks. At length a Villain poisoned the Fountain which supplied the whole City with Water, which obliged the Garrison to surrender.

Amurath

Amurath, as he promised, bountifully rewarded the Traytor, but had him secretly made away with soon after.

The Sultan, having once more recruited his Army, prepared for the Siege of *Croia*; not doubting but that the Reduction of the Capital would be followed by the Submission of the whole Kingdom. *Croia* is situated on an Ascent in the Plain of *Tyranna*, and in two Places only accessible, being every where else defended by impregnable Rocks. The numerous Troops of *Amurath* not only blocked up the City but cover'd the Plains to the Mountains of *Tumenestra*, where *Scanderbeg* lay with his Forces to observe the Enemy. The Sultan, who knew his Vigilance, first took Care to fortify his own Camp and then summoned the City: but receiving a resolute Answer from the Governor he mounted his Cannon and battered the Walls with such Fury, that a Breach was soon made. Encouraged by this Success he commanded his Troops to an Assault, but was forced, after the Loss of 8000 Janissaries, to retreat with Shame and Confusion to oppose *Scanderbeg*; who had enter'd the Trenches, fired the Camp in several Places, and with dreadful Havock and Confusion drove all before him. The old Sultan, being deeply affected with the Distractions of his People, gave himself up a Prey to Melancholy. The whole Army

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was dispirited: the Council and Officers, more anxious for their Master's Life than the Success of the War, neglected every thing but the Care of his Person. His Son *Mahomet* only, who gave early Proofs of his savage Disposition, drove the unwilling Soldiers to the Breach, where they were slaughtered on Heaps without gaining the least Advantage, and many received their Death from the Hand of that cruel Prince for flying to avoid it. *Scanderbeg*, who never slept above two Hours at a time during this Siege, and even then armed, with his Horse and Weapons by him; gave the *Turks* no Rest Night or Day, but by assaulting them sometimes in one Place and sometimes in another, kept them in perpetual Fear. *Mahomet* burning with Rage left the Trenches with a great Number of Troops, resolving at all Events to ascend the Mountains and engage his Enemy there. *Scanderbeg*, who never failed of the best Intelligence, being informed of this, left 500 Men with an able Officer to guard the Passage, which they did so effectually that *Mahomet* spent a great deal of Time and lost Abundance of Men to no Purpose. *Scanderbeg* in the mean while with 8000 Men march'd round to the opposite Side of the *Turkish* Camp, where he was least expected, and forcing their Trenches made such terrible Slaughter of the Enemy that their former Losses seemed nothing in Comparison to this. *Mahomet*, who
had

had no Reason to boast of his Success, hearing this returned with his Troops to oppose *Scanderbeg* and save the rest of the Camp, being pursued by the 500 *Epirots* to his very Entrance into the Trenches; which *Scanderbeg* then quitted, having prevented *Mahomet's* Design, destroyed a vast Number of his Enemies and plundered their Camp without the Loss of one single Man on his own Side. The least Allarm, or even the Name of *Scanderbeg*, which the *Epirots* frequently made use of in their Attacks to terrify their Enemies, was now sufficient to strike a Pannick through the *Ottoman* Army and put the whole Camp into Confusion. Instead of battering the City, they placed their Cannon on the Lines that encompassed their Camp to defend themselves; but this availed them little, for *Scanderbeg* continued to infest and destroy them almost at his Pleasure. To add to their Misfortunes their Provisions began to fail them. To remedy this Evil, *Amurath* sent to *Desia*, a City of the *Venetians*; where for his Money his Agents were furnished with a great Quantity of Provisions; but *Scanderbeg* intercepted the Convoy and sent it all to his own Camp, leaving the Sultan to supply himself from his own Dominions, or where else he could. *Amurath*, to leave no Means unattempted to make himself Master of *Croia*, ordered it
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to be undermined ; but the Rock on which the City was founded, could not be sufficiently penetrated. He then tried to corrupt the Governor, or raise a Mutiny in the City by the Force of his Bribes ; but being disappointed in both, he was prevailed on to offer Peace, desiring only a small yearly Tribute to save his Honour : but *Scanderbeg* absolutely refusing, he abandoned himself to Despair, tore his white Beard and cursed his Destiny, that had reserved him to this Shame in his old Age. He would sometimes boast of his former Glory, and count over the Battles he had fought and the Victories he had gained, and so aggravate his present Miseries by the Memory of his past Triumphs. Finding himself near his End he sent for his Son and the chief Officers of his Army, to whom he complained bitterly and with many Tears of his hard Fortune in being compelled to resign his Breath in an obscure Country and in the Sight of his Enemy ; and turning towards his Son, intreated him to revenge his Death. After which being speechless he struggled for some Time in extream Agonies and so expired. The Sultan's Fate determined the Siege of *Croia*. *Mahomet* with his broken and dejected Troops took the shortest Way out of *Epirus* ; but being closely pursued by *Scanderbeg*, who treated them after his usual Manner, that miserable Army
was

was much more reduced before they enter'd their new Master's Dominions. What Thanksgiving to the Giver of Victory, what Praises of their King's Wisdom and Magnanimity, what mutual Congratulations on their Deliverance fill'd the Mouths and Hearts of the *Epirots* on this Occasion we need not describe: the Thoughts of every Reader, who knows the Value of Liberty, will more than supply that Omission.

Scanderbeg, now at Leisure, to the great Joy of his Subjects, married the Daughter of *Aranthes Conino*, Prince of *Durazzo*; a Lady of incomparable Beauty and adorned with ev'ry possible Virtue in it's highest Perfection. After which, accompanied with his fair Queen, he visited every Part of his Kingdom to comfort and glad the Hearts of his People, whose Delight he justly was, after their Afflictions. In his Progress he administer'd Justice with Mercy; and indeed so prudent was his Government at all Times, that during his whole Reign, except when the *Turks* infested Country, Persons loaded with Gold might have travelled from one End of *Epirus* to the other without being molested. He was so far from oppressing his Subjects, that it became a Proverb amongst the neighbouring Princes, That *the Turks Dominions are Scanderbeg's Revenues*.

Mahomet

Mahomet, who succeeded his Father proved a very victorious but a very impious Prince. His Mother, the Daughter of the Despot of *Servia*, was a Christian; And it was thought by some that he would be a Favourer of that Religion, but he deceived their Expectations and profess'd *Mahometanism*, but was secretly a Contemner of both. Ambition was his God and his Practice was suitable to his Faith. He conquered the two Empires of *Constantinople* and *Trapezond*, twelve Kingdoms, and Five hundred Cities and was therefore called, *Mahomet the Great*. And yet this mighty Conqueror, during the Life of *Scanderbeg*, could never subdue *Epirus*, nor any Part of it, nor ever keep the City of *Sfetigrade*, which was recovered from the *Turks* soon after the Death of *Amurath*. Not that he was wanting in his Endeavours; he had nothing more at Heart: All his Acquisitions cost him less perhaps than his unsuccessful Attempts upon this little Kingdom. After he was established in his Throne he had almost continual Wars with *Scanderbeg*: He tried Flattery as well as Force, and invited that Prince to his Court under Pretence of Love and Admiration of his Person and Courage, and a Desire to see him and renew their former Acquaintance. He twice invaded *Epirus* in Person, each time with 200000 Men; but was both
times

times forced to return with infinite Shame and Loss. Nay he descended to the meanest and worst of Villanies; he hired two Traytors to assassinate *Scanderbeg*, who, to the eternal Infamy of their Abettors, were discovered and justly punished.

If any thing can be more wonderful than the Actions of this great Man's Life, it is that he should be preserved, amidst so many Dangers to which his own Courage and the Malice of his Enemies continually exposed him, to die in Peace. Being with his Wife and Son at *Lyssa*, he was attacked with a violent Fever; and apprehending it to be mortal he recommended to the Princes his Confidents, and the *Venetian* Ambassador, Unanimity and the Care of his Son, who was then in his Minority and to whom he gave much excellent Advice: But above all Things charged him, if he should live to undertake the Government of his Kingdom, so to rule as to be rather beloved than feared by his Subjects: whose Fidelity to himself he praised and for whom he expressed the greatest Affection. While *Scanderbeg* was thus setting his House in Order and preparing for Death with the Piety of a Christian, and the Resolution of a Hero; News was brought him that the *Turks* had entered the Dominions of the *Venetians*. Upon which, dying as he was, he rose and
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called for his Armour ; but the Strength of his Body not answering the Vigor of his Mind, he fainted and was by his weeping Attendance carried again to his Bed. Recovering his Speech he bid his Officers hasten to the Assistance of his Friends and tell the *Turks*, that “ he was detained for the “ present at *Lyssa*, but that he would be “ with them to Morrow. These Words of *Scanderbeg*, spoken in his Weakness before he had recovered the perfect Use of his Reason, being reported by his Officers, reached the *Turkish* Camp that Evening, and filled it with such Terror that expecting every Moment to be attacked the whole Army remained all Night under Arms, and at the Approach of the Day quitted their Station and fled, as if *Scanderbeg* had been indeed at their Heels, to the Mountains of *Scutaria*, where the greater Part of them miserably perished. While the *Turks* were flying when none pursued, with fervent Devotion and perfect Resignation to the Divine Pleasure *Scanderbeg* died. His afflicted Kingdom and Christian Confederates sustained this irreparable Loss on the 17th of *January* 1467, in the 63d Year of his Age. He was interred with great Magnificence in the Cathedral Church of *St. Nicholas* at *Lyssa*. This City about nine Years after was taken by the *Turks*; who, though they hated him living, with much Reverence took

took up his Bones ; which with great Contention (every one striving for a Part tho' ever so small) they divided amongst them ; and after every one had set his Portion in Silver or Gold, and adorned it with Jewels according to his Fancy or Ability, they superstitiously wore them as sacred Charms or Amulets against Cowardice and ill Fortune.

Scanderbeg was of a fair Complexion ; his Features regular, and his Countenance manly and majestick. In short, his Face was perfectly handsome without the least unbecoming Softness. His Stature was high, his Limbs proportionably large and exquisitely well made. His Constitution naturally good, was so improved by Temperance and Exercise that he could bear the extreamest Vicissitudes of Heat and Cold and the greatest Labour without any apparent Inconvenience. His Strength was wonderful ; of which we have in several Authors many surprizing Instances : as his cutting two Men afunder with a single Stroke of his Simitar ; his cleaving a Man at one Blow from Head to Chine ; his cutting through Head Pieces of Iron ; his killing a wild Boar at one Stroke, and cutting off the Head of a wild and fierce Buffalo at another, &c. *Mahomet* the Great, hearing of these and other Instances of the like Nature, desired to see

Scanderbeg's Simitar, imagining there must be something extraordinary in it; but finding it like others he complain'd that *Scanderbeg* had deceived him, who had sent him Word, that " he was ready at any Time to convince him of the Goodness of his Weapon, " but then it must be in his own Hand, " which he cou'd not yet spare from the Defence of himself and his Country.

The Excellency of his Mind, his surprizing Genius and exalted Virtue, are so visible not only in the whole Course but almost ev'ry Action of his Life, that it is only Repetition to say he was pious, wise, liberal, just and mercifull, cautious, not soon offended and easily appeased. Of his forgiving Temper take this Instance. A Kinsman of his, who had basely betray'd his Counsels and joined with his Enemies the *Turks*, after some Time returned; and with a Halter about his Neck threw himself at his Feet: *Scanderbeg* not only raised him from the Ground and embraced him with great Tenderness, but immediately restored him to his former Command and Share in his confidence and Favour. That his Judgment was perfect in his Youth without the Help of Experience, witness his Conduct under *Amurath* and his artfull Recovery of his native Dominions: and that Time did not in the least abate the Ardor of his Courage we have the strongest Proof from
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his Behaviour, when in the Article of Death. It is asserted from the undoubted Evidence of those who served under him, that in his Wars with the *Turks* he killed above three Thousand of them with his own Hands, and that his Troops were never defeated in any Battle in which he was present. He did not use to say to his Soldiers, *Go on*, but *Follow me*. In Battle he exerted himself with such Violence, that the Blood has been seen to burst from his Mouth and other Parts of his Face. He was never known to retreat from a single Adversary but once; and that in the following manner. *Scanderbeg* giving some Orders to his Army, a private Soldier, with more Petulance perhaps than Malice, contradicted him; which he so resented as to draw his Sabre; upon which the Fellow rode away as fast as he could and *Scanderbeg* after him, till they came to the Brink of a River; when the Soldier turn'd about and drawing his Sabre told *Scanderbeg* " that he was sorry to oppose his Prince, but Nature bid him defend his Life : " This respectfull but resolute Behaviour so charm'd *Scanderbeg* that he retired and told the Soldier, " he had much rather have such a Man for his Friend than Enemy," and returning with him to the Camp immediately advanced and esteem'd him ever after. Prosperity never made him vain, nor Adversity dejected : He had learn'd both how to want and how to abound.

bound. He had no Ambition, no Avarice, no luxurious Appetite to gratifie: He fought not for Power but Liberty; he spoiled his Enemies to humble them, and to subsist his own People, not to enrich himself. When his Affairs wou'd permit he kept a sumptuous Table for his Officers and Friends; but he himself eat but once a Day, and that but sparingly. He never slept more than five Hours in the twenty-four, and in Times of Danger wou'd satisfy himself with two. His Soldiers were richly habited but their King generally very plain, but upon proper Occasions he wou'd appear dress'd and attended with the utmost Magnificence.

FINIS.

